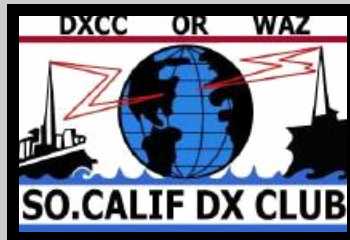


THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB INC

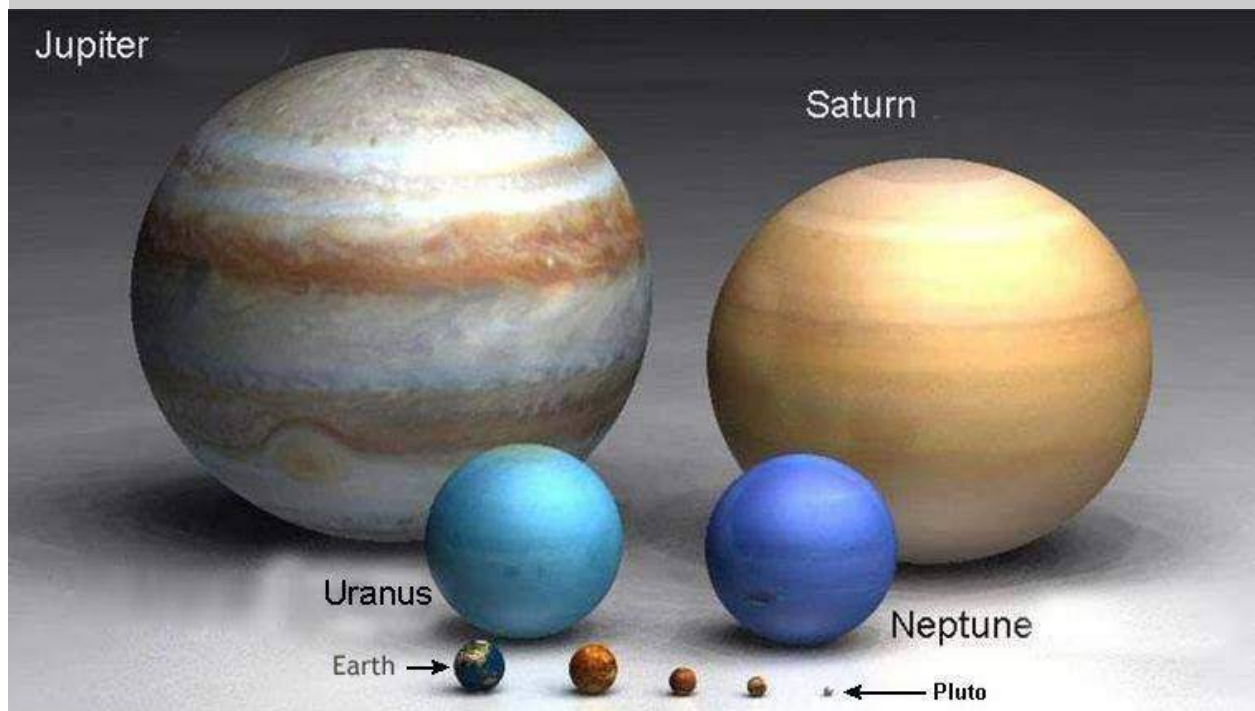
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Oct 2006

Next meeting Oct 12 at 1930 hrs



SOMBODY ALWAYS PICKING ON THE LITTLE GUY

BYE PLUTO

FTDX9000 Focus Group

By

Harvey Laidman, W8DX



Harvey and pal Rosie

I've been very serious about evaluating the latest equipment. Here, I have the brochures spread out on the table in front of me, like a Kodachrome buffet: Icom 7800 to the left, Yaesu 9000 to the right. Hmmm, I read on.

Then it hit me.

Page 15, Paragraph 2: The main tuning knob has a built-in restroom hot air finger-drier. This is to "enhance tuning precision ... (in) ...hot, tropical areas."

Wait a minute? Did I read that right? Where did that come from? The same guy who suggested putting the RIT/XIT on the same knob as the "B" VFO?

Who thought of the big XLR mike connector? Is there someone out there who is logging, holding on to his big, professional Western Electric 10,001 microphone ("I want to sound like Roddy McDowell in "National Velvet") and squeezing the main tuning knob until his fingers break out in a sweat?

Perhaps Yaesu held a focus group, inviting crusty, experienced hams to suggest features to be incorporated into their new, super transceiver. How did they put this group together? Let us speculate.

The best way to start, I guess, is with JA1BK's log book. But wait a minute. Wouldn't the super stations that worked all the JA1BK expeditions already have, pretty much, the ideal set-up? Then again, they would probably want to go beyond "the best," they'd come up with things like a "finger-drier."

Anyway, W2NQ/7 is the big winner, working the KH8SI expedition three times on 10 Mhz, four times on 20 SSB, three times on 17 meters SSB and twice on 75 meters. His record is similar with Kan's BS7H expedition, six times on 20 meters. This guy would know!

So, John and fifteen of his friends gathered at the Fairmont in San Francisco, to design the ideal, be-all, do-all transceiver.

(Continued on page 3)

Continued from page 5

(
How about a built-in log book? (Because, after you buy this transceiver, you won't be able to afford a log book.) How about a four-inch map of the world with grey line? We need a large "S" meter hooked up to the "B" receiver. Sort of a "B" "S" meter.

At this point, I wanted to insert a "top ten" list of ridiculous Focus Group suggestions, but I realized that they've already been implemented in the "all time" radio!

1. Finger drier on the main tuning knob.
2. Big, professional XLR mike connector for those Big, Professional, Mikes.
3. Four-Inch grey line map to check propagation to Dubrovnik on 75 Meters.
4. Big, dedicated "B" receiver "S" meter, for giving reports to the competition in a pile-up.
5. Choice of display color. Only you have to decide in advance, otherwise, the entire display must be changed. So, guess.
6. 100 KHz quick QSY: Yes, often I discover a friend in QSO on 14.025. Now, I can tail-end and tell him: "DWN 100." Or, a expedition can easily split "UP 100."
7. Continuous 100 second DVR on-board. What did that guy say about me?
8. Two 3.6 inch speakers create a "rich, wide-range tonal quality." Need I say more?
9. The "AFL" keeps loud stations from damaging your hearing. I usually just wear earmuffs.
10. Ahh! The "TXW" "transmit watch" key is back! There has to be a Kenwood user in this focus group.

No prose I could write could equal Yaesu's: "The radio created for talking to Mother Nature's wonders." Amen. It kind of says it all about many of the hams I've met.



I can only think the designers of this magnificent transceiver are like a DaVinci inviting a select group of Florentines to come by and paint a beard, moustache, glasses and an IPO[™] on the Mona Lisa

DXing with the Elecraft KX 1

An appreciation by Dave Bell, W6AQ

A year or so ago I took the time to build an Elecraft KX 1, a rig about twice the size of 2 packs of cigarettes that weighs in at less than a pound. With its internal double A battery pack it runs roughly 3 watts.

Mine has 3 bands, 40, 30, and 20, CW only. Since I built mine, Elecraft has added an 80 meter module, but I'm happy with the bands I've got. It has a built in antenna tuner, allowing me to get less than a 2 to 1 ratio on a 26' piece of wire, tossed into a tree or, in the case of my recent trip to Brazil, over the fiberglass roof of an excursion boat on the Amazon. The antenna (...hard to call it that, really), has a 12' counterpoise. I also built the paddle that plugs into the KX 1, and that's all there is to the entire station.

Now there are probably some DXers who would scoff at such a rig. But I'm here to tell you that it's an amazing radio. From the Amazon, I worked stations all over South America and even worked a few stations in Germany. My reports weren't great, but we're not talking about contest-style contacts. We're talking real QSOs. Some of them were short, because my signal was so weak, but others were five minutes or more.

The downside of low power and a tiny antenna is that you can't talk to anyone you want to who happens to be on. You call, and either they hear you or they don't. From the Amazon, I heard a lot of stations (it's pretty quiet down there) and worked about one-quarter of the ones I called. I got a lot of 5-3-9s, but I got a few 5-7-9s as well. Virtually everybody was amazed I was running 3 watts to a 26' piece of wire. For that matter, I was fairly amazed myself!

I only mention this rig to a bunch of DXers because you can throw it in your bag, and you'll never raise the eyebrow of a custom's official – at least I didn't. Just in case, I stapled my bill of sale to the back of my shortcut guide to the KX 1 menu, in case I forgot how to do something. As it turned out, I didn't need either the sales slip or the crib sheet. So, if you're taking a trip and don't have time for ham radio, you could consider doing what I do. Throw the KX 1 in the suitcase. It's amazing how you can find time for a contact if you've got a rig handy, even if it's time to get into the motorboat for a trip into the heart of the rainforest.

PICTURE CAPTION: Dave, W6AQ, and Sam, W6QLT, as their little tour boat backs out into a busy harbor after dropping them off in Manaus, Brazil – the end of a really memorable four day Amazon Cruise. Dave was in Brazil to videotape World Radiosport Team Championships, a part of the IARU contest, just after July 4th. The film is being edited right now. Dave expects it to be about 5 minutes long and on the ARRL website. Icom will put together their own longer version of the film, at least that's the plan right now.



BUBBA SEZ

Our annual Anchors Away Auction was once again a huge success. Standing room only and many bargains for the educated were purchased, or stolen, depending on if you were the buyer or seller. All eyes were on our own experienced auctioneer, Skip, KJ6Y using his skills to bleed every dollar from the bidders. The Wayne and Sharon show was once again the biggest show of the evening. I hope Wayne is OK after banging his head against the wall. Pat, WA6MHZ drove all the way from San Diego, bargain shopping. I think he almost filled the Lincoln up for the return trip.



There was not much that did not sell and many items were donated to the club. Thank you to all the donors, especially Julio, AD6DK for his generosity

The Bubba airport express has been hired by Bob, N6OX, for his trip to LAX on October 25th. He is heading for Belgium for the CQWW/SSB contest. He will make a quick trip, returning on October 30th. I am sure he will be tired and worn out from traveling, but I always enjoy hearing about his experiences. He will attend the November meeting, so stand by for more tales of a wondering DXer.

A big "Thank You" to Skip the auctioneer. Great job! Remember the Holiday Party is just around the corner, December 3 at the Orange Hill Restaurant in Orange. All details on the web site, or you can see Jim, N6DHz to buy your tickets. Don't miss out on the chance to visit and win some great prizes.

Last but not least a big thank you to Steve, W6NRQ, our newsletter editor. Your time and effort is enjoyed by all and appreciated.

See you at the October meeting, 73s, Bubba

**Volunteers needed to put the club into the next season
Act now to reserve a good job
It's easy!!! You can do it.
Lots of real time technical support.**

DA VEEP

October! My favorite month. Perhaps because Halloween is my favorite (pseudo-) holiday. I love the fall weather – warm days and cold nights. And, of course, the first of the season's CQ WW contests falls over the last weekend of the month. While I'm not a hardcore contester, I do like operating in DX contests to build my DXCC entity total.



This year, if all goes as planned, I will BE the DX instead of sitting at home and trying to WORK the DX. That's because I'll be on vacation in New Zealand, and I'm hoping to have a radio with me.

What am I planning to take with me? Well, knowing that I was going to be in ZL-land, I went to the Dayton Hamvention last May with a shopping list. The possible transceivers on the list included the beautiful ICOM IC-7000 and well-established Yaesu FT-897D. So, which would it be?

The cost of the IC-7000 in Dayton on the "show special" was \$1325, a nice reduction from the list price of \$1500. Even better, the radio is all DSP, so there are no optional filters to buy. The problem with the radio, however, is that it lacks an internal power supply. So, if I took it to New Zealand, I'd also have to take a switching power supply. The problem wasn't so much the weight as the bulk. I just didn't think I wanted to fill up so much space in my carry-on.

The FT-897, by contrast, has some DSP built into it but also takes optional filters. The real deal point, however, is that Yaesu makes a switching power supply that bolts onto the bottom of the radio, replacing the bottom chassis cover. The radio becomes about an inch taller with the FP-30 power supply attached, but the all-up weight is not significantly different from the IC-7000 plus an external power supply, and the footprint is half of what the ICOM solution would be. Even better, the price of the whole shebang – radio, power supply, and narrow CW and SSB filters (from INRAD) – was not significantly different from the IC-7000 system cost. So, I bought the Yaesu, and plan to carry a "Yo-Yo-Tenna" with it in my carry-on. I also bolted the aftermarket LDG auto-tuner onto the side of the unit, so it all falls into one neat package with the 897's sturdy carrying handle. If all goes according to plan, you may hear me on the air over CQWW weekend as ZL/K6JW.

For those of you who've been following my tower saga, I survived the appeal period without any filings, and then the City balked at stamping the plans, instead demanding that I submit a detailed landscaping plan including species of trees to be planted to "screen" the tower, their height at planting and the anticipated height at maturity. This resulted in my sending a letter to them alleging that they were being vague and nonspecific, since neighbors on three sides had signed off without vegetation, and the neighbor directly behind and above me, who didn't sign off, couldn't see the tower in her City-defined view corridor, anyway. The City freaked and called me within an hour of my dropping off the letter.

Continued on page 9

MORE FROM THE VEEP

They hastily reassured me that all would be OK but that they wanted a landscaping plan for "zone clearance" before stamping the plans. I therefore went to a local nursery, picked some trees, and supplied the info to the City. At this writing, I'm still in limbo.

This month, we have our very own Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ, who'll be speaking on his IOTA adventure this past July. In Jim's own words: "My presentation will be on my recent Islands On The Air (IOTA) DXpedition to Santa Cruz Island, IOTA designation NA-144 for the 2006 IOTA Contest (27-30 Jul 06). I was accompanied by three SCDXC members: Ray, N6VR, Jay, WB9AWX, and Vic, KI6VC. Ray, Vic, and Jay operated the contest under the call sign N6VR/P and I operated the WARC bands as N6KZ/P (not in the contest). We operated from the old US Navy station on top of the island's mountain ridge, about 1500 feet ASL, now an operating serving as a base for the National Park Service." So, plan to be there for the rest of the story!

73,

Jeff, K6JW

Continued from page 8

Ham Radio Trivia!

Some radio stations use water cooled transmitters and sometimes use the hot water to heat the building.

TRUE OR FALSE

Answer on page 9

[Q16] submitted by [AA7BQ](#), [Difficulty Odds](#): 0.3 to 1

Know your anagrams?

16. NUMB CRADLE =?

17. RANK OWL = ?

18. AVE NO UNO =?

See answers on page 9

SDDXC held its annual election on Wednesday, June 28, 2006. Officers serve from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

President: Paul Dorey, WN6K

Vice President: Bob Grimmick, N6OX

Secretary/Treasurer: Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO

Board of Directors:

Gayle Olson, K6GO: Wayne Zimmerman, NN6R: Glenn Rattmann, K6NA

Past President: Jim Stevenson, W6YI 73, Harry/W6YOO

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http://www.lownoiserecords.com/wwv_the_tick.html

Sorry, you have to type it in

Anagram answers

NUMB CRADLE

=

CUMBERLAND

RANK OWL

=

NORWALK

AV NO UNO

=

ANO NUEVO

The Trivia answer is True
Several broadcast stations did this

For Sale: Kenwood TS-940 HF transceiver.
includes auto tuner and cw filter options. \$700

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Contact Ray Benny, N6VR (805)649-9696 for more info.

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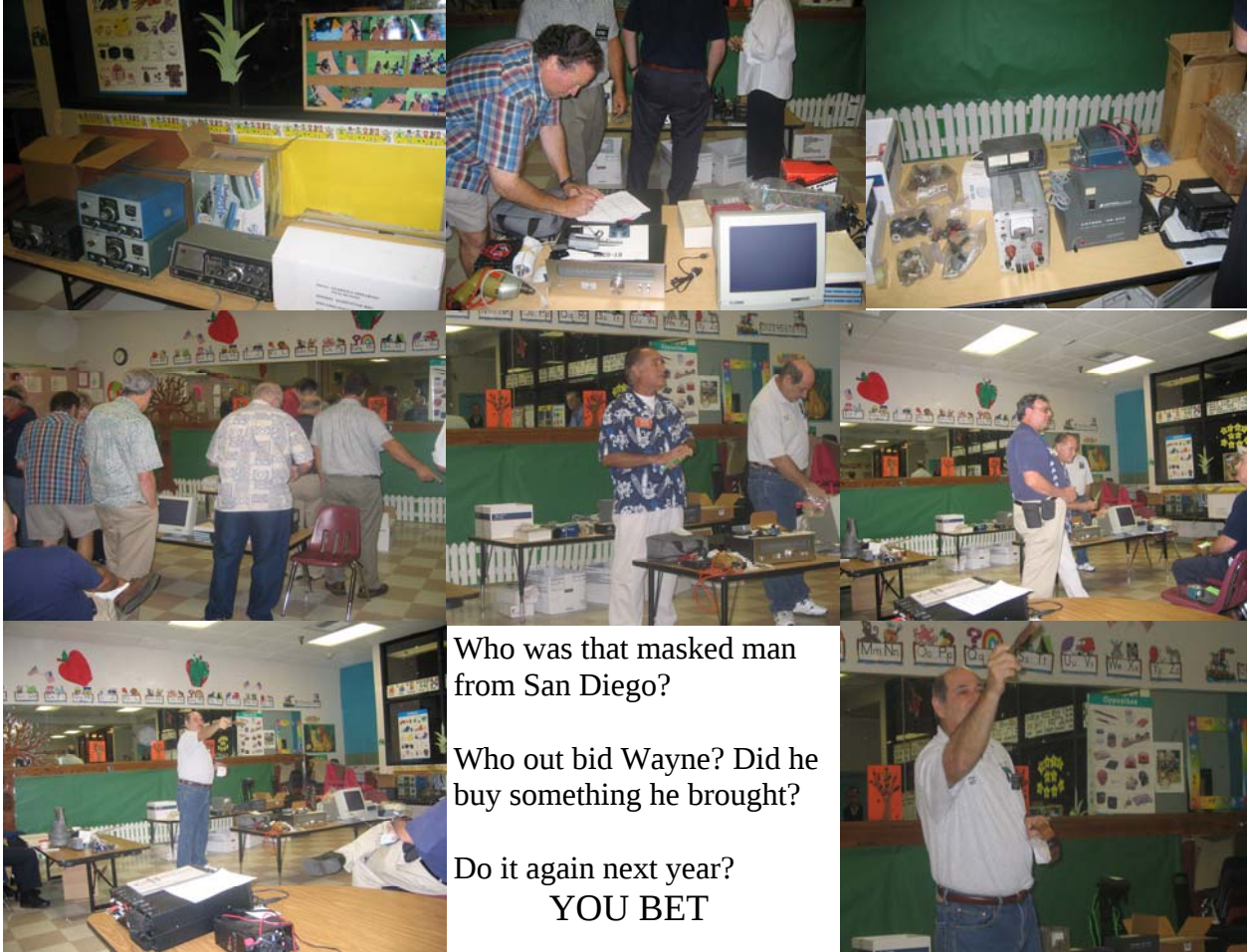
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Anchors away WINNERS ALL



Larry, k6yui said he had a busy weekend.
Art, W6XD said he had enough
WHAT WAS IT, SOMEBODY TELL ME.





NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 15, 2006 -- Well-known Amateur Radio industry personality Chip Margelli, K7JA, has joined [Heil Sound Ltd](#) as vice president of sales and marketing. Heil Sound President Bob Heil, K9EID, and his wife Sarah announced September 14 that Margelli will be responsible for all national and international Amateur Radio sales and marketing plans. [Margelli](#), who for many years has been associated with the Yaesu Amateur Radio brand and regularly fronted that manufacturer's ham fest concessions all over the US, says he's "honored and excited" to be making the move to Heil Sound.

ARTICLE FROM ARRL WEB SITE
CONGRATULTIONS CHIP AND GOOD SUCCESS
And to Jack our friend.
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Apologetic Radio Jammer Jack Gerritsen Gets Seven Years, Fines

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 19, 2006 -- It was a day many radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included willful and malicious interference with radio communications and transmitting without a license. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and outright jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom, which included more than a dozen radio amateurs and Gerritsen's family members. Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency.

WHO WE ARE

We are FCC licensed members of the Amateur Radio Fraternity who enjoy talking to people and making friends from around the world using different modes of Radio Transmission.

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is distributed to all club members. Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error. Submissions are welcome and please direct all such articles to the editor. Some articles may be edited for size or content. Content, written comments and opinions are not necessarily those of the editor or the Southern California DX Club.

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Monthly meetings are held at 1930 hrs on the 2 nd Thursday of each month at the Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. See the club web page for directions.

No meeting months are April (Visalia), December (Christmas Party). Other months as announced.

Some members meet at the Roll and Rye Deli in Culver City at 6PM for eats and gossip catch up.

Get info on W6AM Club Repeater: 145.48 MHz, 100 Hz PL

Club Web Site: www.scdxc.org

ELECTIONS ARE COMING

SIGN UP NOW.

SLOTS ARE FILLING UP FAST!!!

Editor

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or web site

Are you an ARRL Member? Yes: ☐ NO: ☐ LIFE: { }

Dues: Membership US\$18.00 (Add'l Family Members US\$4.50ea)
Badges Small (2" X 3") __ or Large (3.75" X 3" __ Both are US\$9.00ea including postage
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